

release all political prisoners, and to allow the legitimately elected leaders of the country to govern. Further, the government of Singapore should freeze the bank accounts of the dictators.

Madam Speaker, it is time for the world to act to stop the honors taking place in Burma. While the military regime woos diplomats and guests in downtown Rangoon, Burma's people outside the realm of international scrutiny endure intensifying and acute repression. I demand that Burma's military regime immediately stop its campaign of terror against the Burmese people, and urge my colleagues to raise their voices for freedom.

I reiterate, public statements in support of the people of Burma are helpful, but only issuing statements is like putting a tiny band aid over a gaping, infected wound—it will not help where massive surgery is needed. The only thing that will solve the problem of the brutal dictatorship in Burma is to get rid of the SPDC.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House, the Senate and the Administration, and the international community to see that Burma's military regime soon joins the Soviet Union, Ceausescu's Romania, Milosevic's Yugoslavia and other regimes and dictatorships that now reside in the ashbin of world history.

Finally, I say to the people of Burma: You are not forgotten. We stand with you and will continue to work with you for as long as it takes to ensure that the people of your nation are able to live in peace and freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF  
JACKSONVILLE ELKS LODGE #221

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the admirable efforts of the Jacksonville Elks Lodge #221 for the outstanding service they have provided our nation's veterans. In these uncertain times where foreign radicals continue to pose a threat to our Nation and our troops continue to fight this threat overseas, their contributions are made even more significant.

Over the past 3 years, the 352 members of Jacksonville Elks Lodge #221 have raised almost \$42,000 and donated much needed supplies for our veterans. They have traveled almost 39,000 miles to veterans hospitals, nursing homes and private homes of veterans and have invested almost 2,500 hours of service to our veterans population.

Every month members of Jacksonville Elks Lodge #221 visit the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Lake City to volunteer their time for our veterans and have supported more than 100 homeless veterans each year through donations and goods to the City of Jacksonville's Homeless Veterans Stand-Down. Currently they have adopted four veterans whom they are assisting with shopping, groceries, transportation to and from medical appointments and other day-to-day activities. They have held luncheons and provided support for spouses and families of deployed service men and women and adopted units deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, sending them supplies and recreational equipment.

Taking into account their service for our veterans community, it is no surprise that at least three of the recent past State Veterans Chairpersons of the Florida State Elks Association Veterans Service Committee have come from this Lodge and their current Chairperson was selected as the Female Veterans Services Volunteer of the Year for the State of Florida in an award presented at the Florida State Elks Convention in June 2005.

It is my distinct honor to call the members of the Jacksonville Elks Lodge #221 my friends and neighbors and I am proud to represent them as their Member of Congress. On behalf of Jacksonville and our entire Nation, I would like to express my utmost appreciation and offer them our thanks for their service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MENDEZ V. WESTMINSTER DECISION

SPEECH OF

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 22, 2007*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 721, which would recognize the 60th anniversary of the Mendez v. Westminster decision. This landmark decision ended segregation of Mexican and Mexican-American students in California schools.

On March 2, 1945, a group of concerned Mexican-American fathers, led by Gonzalo Mendez, challenged the practice of school segregation in the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, California. These fathers claimed that their children, along with 5,000 other children of Latino descent, were victims of discrimination by being forced to attend separate "Mexican" schools in the Westminster, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and El Modena school districts of Orange County, California. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled in favor of the families and held that the segregation of Mexican and Mexican-American students into separate schools was unconstitutional. This California case won access for Mexican-Americans to all schools in 1947 and helped lay the foundation seven years later for the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Brown v. Board of Education case.

Latinos are the fastest-growing student population. Approximately 32 percent of children enrolled in our Nation's public school are Latino. The status of Latino education suggests a number of missed opportunities from early childhood education through higher education. For example, families of 67 percent of Latino children under the age of three have an income that is 200 percent below the federal poverty threshold. Economic hardship is a reality for these families and has an adverse effect on child development and school readiness. In 2004, only 58 percent of Latinos had completed high school and 12 percent completed college.

Madam Speaker, it is important that Congress honor and recognize the civil rights implication of the Mendez v. Westminster case. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and learn from the lessons of this Nation's history. Like Gonzalo Mendez and the rest of the fathers who led the fight in Mendez v. West-

minster, we must continue the fight to close the education gap in our country. Educating our children is a commitment we must keep.

HONORING THE TOWN OF  
BARNSTABLE

**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in recognizing the Town of Barnstable, Massachusetts for its distinguished achievement in being named one of 2007's "All-America Cities."

For 58 years, the National Civic League's "All-America City" Awards have been presented to localities that demonstrate an exceptional ability to rise to the challenges involved in building and sustaining safe, healthy communities. Toward this end, the Town of Barnstable continues to be a model for civic engagement, excelling in its efforts to involve the business community, nonprofit organizations, and citizens in developing ingenious solutions to local problems.

While the Town of Barnstable has applied the same cooperative approach in tackling a wide array of challenges, three in particular merit its designation as one of this year's ten "All-America Cities." Under its visionary "economic development stimulus plan," the Town of Barnstable breathed new life into the Main Street and waterfront areas of downtown Hyannis. This initiative helped to promote growth in an environmentally and socially responsible way, while boosting the area's cultural richness and scenic beauty.

Thanks to the Town's multi-pronged Affordable Housing Plan—an ambitious project that aims to secure 1,000 units of housing over a 10-year period—residents making below 80 percent of the area's median income will have expanded opportunities to make home ownership a reality.

Finally, the Town's creation of a Youth Commission has ensured the area's young people have a strong voice in the democratic process, advising the Town Council on the legislation and issues that matter most to Barnstable's youth and families.

It gives me pride to see the Town of Barnstable receive national attention for all the hard work and dedication that I have long admired. As we pause to reflect on this prestigious honor, I want to commend all the residents of Barnstable for their collective efforts to make the community a better place to live and work.

I particularly want to thank Town Manager John Klimm for his admirable leadership, and for seeing through the initiatives that have made Barnstable an "All-America City." Congratulations on an award well-deserved. For today, tomorrow, and long into the future, I have great confidence that the Town of Barnstable will continue to serve as a model for communities all across the country.